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TO INTENSIFY CAMPAIGN AGAINST BLACK MARKET

SETS UP MARKET CONTROL INSPECTORATES -- Wola Ludu, No 69, 10 Mar 50

With the creation in each wojewodztwo of Market Control Inspectorates, the fight against speculation will be conducted on a large scale, to knock out the big speculator. An intensified fight against speculation is particularly needed in the rural areas where peasants often pay 100 percent more than the official market prices.

Railroad personnel and members of their families have been taking advantage of their reduced fares to travel from Bialystok to Szczecin, or from Zgorzelec to Warsaw, to sell textiles on the black market.

The new Wojewodztwo Market Control Inspectorates will track down the most common forms of speculation and black marketing.

Employees of socialized retail stores tip off black marketeers on the arrival of stocks of merchandise. Through a series of accounting manipulations and under the pretext that many items are needed for their own use, they turn over merchandise to speculators. It was disclosed that some of the men employed by socialized retail stores had been buying up textiles for as much as 70,000 zlotys monthly.

Members of trade unions often pass their membership cards to black marketeers. Sometimes more than ten trade-union cards have been found on arrested black marketeers. Some cards were authentic, but many were faked.

The most effective measure against speculation, however, is to supply the stores with merchandise. The supply of merchandise in March 1950 will be 34 percent higher than in February, and 37 percent higher than it was in 1949.

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STEP UP ANTISPECULATION PROGRAM -- Zycie Olsztynskie, No 70, 11 Mar 50

The antispeculation program in the textile trade is being intensified. Reports from the Inspectorates for the Protection of Trade are coming in from many areas.

It was reported that 67 meters of woolen material, 127 meters of silk, and 485 meters of cotton were found hidden in boxes at the home of Walerja Kowalska, owner of a dry-goods store and two other buildings in Chrzanow. In the home of Helena Barkiewicz in Nowy Targ, 140 meters of wool, 130 meters of cotton, about 150 meters of linen, and 37 meters of flannel were found. The materials were confiscated and the cases turned over to the representative of the Special Commission in Krakow for disposition.

At a meeting of representatives of the Special Commission, the retail stores, and the trade unions, held by the Krakow ORZZ (Regional Council of Trade Unions), union members whose cards had been found in the hands of speculators were severely reprimanded and threatened with dismissal and prosecution if the offense were repeated.

In Lodz, 1,200 cases were reported and a large number of speculators were referred to the Special Commission. Among these were Aniela Siedlecka, who purchased 8 yards of ticking in the Textile Sales Center and tried to resell it for a higher price before even leaving the store, and Leokadja Molenda, being held for a similar offense.

It was reported that privately owned stores were concealing large amounts of merchandise. Wool yarns worth half a million zlotys were found in Donosiewicz's store on Legionow I, and 8,000 kilograms of wool and wool scraps were found in a large storeroom on Poludniowa 2.

The Wroclaw Appellate Court tried the case of 20 workers of the Textile Sales Center in Luban, including Aureliusz Barbacki, manager, and Tadeusz Bak, bookkeeper, charged with illegal distribution of surplus materials and falsification of accounts. The merchandise, valued at 1,800,000 zlotys, had been systematically distributed to the personnel, who sold it to peddlers and speculators.

Barnacki was sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment and the loss of his citizenship. Six others, including Bak, were sentenced to 3 and 4 years; the remainder received suspended sentences of 2 and one year and heavy fines.

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